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News From

Congressman Brian Higgins

Timeline of actions by Rep. Higgins:

February 13, 2009: Higgins leads a moment of silence on the House floor for the families and victims with Representative Slaughter the day after the fatal crash of Flight 3407.

February 25, 2009: The House of Representatives considers <u>H. Res. 183</u>, a resolution introduced by Higgins, Lee, and Slaughter expressing condolences to the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims of Continental Connection Flight 3407. (News Release) The resolution passed the House unanimously.

March 4, 2009: The House of Representatives considers <u>H. Res. 201</u>, a resolution introduced by Slaughter, Lee, and Higgins recognizing Beverly Eckert's service to the nation and particularly to the survivors and families of the September 11, 2001, attacks. The resolution passed the House unanimously.

March 19, 2009: Higgins speaks on the House floor honoring the victims of the Flight 3407 Tragedy. (Video)

May 14, 2009: Western New York lawmakers call for independent investigation of commercial airline pilot training programs by the Government Accountability Office (GAO). (News Release)

May 21, 2009: House approves Lee/Slaughter/Higgins amendment requiring independent, comprehensive review of commercial airline pilot training programs. The amendment was included in H.R. 915, the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2009. (News Release)

May 21, 2009: Higgins speaks on the House floor regarding the FAA Amendment to review safety provisions. (Video)

July 8, 2009: The GAO, Congress's official watchdog, accepts the lawmakers request to conduct a comprehensive review of all commercial airline pilot training and certification programs. (News Release)

July 21, 2009: Higgins and Lee join Rep. Rush Holt in introducing legislation aimed at providing one level of aviation safety. (News Release) (Bill Summary)

July 29, 2009: Western New York lawmakers join with House Transportation leaders to introduce legislation aimed at addressing aviation safety and restoring passenger confidence. (News Release)

September 1, 2009: Chairman Oberstar, Ranking Member Mica, Subcommittee Chairman Costello, Subcommittee Ranking Member Petri, Higgins, Slaughter and Lee send a letter to the GAO requesting a comprehensive study of flight schools, flight education and academic training requirements for pilot certification.

October 1, 2009: WNY Lawmakers send a letter to Chairman Oberstar and Ranking Member Mica, leaders of the House Transportation Committee to reiterate their strong support for H.R. 3771 and inclusion of critical language central to resolving safety issues. (News Release)

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October 14, 2009: House passes legislation (H.R. 3771, Airline Safety and Pilot Training Improvement Act of 2009) introduced by Western New York lawmakers to strengthen aviation safety and pilot training. Lee and Higgins hold press conference with families of 3407 in D.C. to increase awareness of the legislation. (News Release)

October 14, 2009: Higgins speaks on the House floor in support of aviation safety and training legislation in the wake of the tragic Flight 3407 in February 2009. (Video)

December 4, 2009: Representatives send a letter to FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt urging him to implement much-needed guidelines on pilot fatigue and pilot commuting. (News Release)

January 22, 2010: Representatives send a letter to the Senate Finance Committee urging the quick implementation of much-needed aviation safety improvements contained in the FAA Reauthorization bill. (News Release)

February 02, 2010: Western New York Lawmakers release statement on NTSB's Flight 3407 Final Report (News Release)

February 11, 2010: Higgins, Lee, Slaughter Demand Explanation of FAA's Delay Implementing Aviation Safety Reforms in letter to FAA Administrator Randy Babbitt Requesting Meeting on NTSB's Flight 3407 Report, FAA's Delay on Implementing Overdue Reforms. (News Release)

February 12, 2010: Higgins joins families and WNY community in anniversary walk from crash site to Buffalo Airport. (Audio)

March 22, 2010: Senate passed the FAA Reauthorization bill and the Aviation Safety bill together.

March 24, 2010: Slaughter, Higgins, Lee meet with FAA Administrator Babbitt and Associate Administrator Gilligan to discuss how NTSB rec's will be implemented.

March 25, 2010: House passes <u>H.R. 1586</u>, the FAA Air Transportation Modernization and Safety Improvement Act (tying House version of aviation safety and FAA bill together).

March 25, 2010: Higgins, Lee send letter to Secretary LaHood requesting his assistance in expediting the FAA rulemaking on new pilot fatigue guidelines.

May 13, 2010: Flight 3407 Families, Higgins and Slaughter meet with President Obama in Buffalo.

July 1, 2010: Gillibrand, Schumer, Lee, Slaughter, Higgins letter to transportation leaders requesting FAA bill and aviation safety reforms pass by August recess.

July 28, 2010: Higgins, Lee, and Slaughter Say Airline Safety Provisions Will Become Law This Week (News Release)

July 29, 2010: Higgins speaks on the House floor in support of Airline Safety Legislation. (Remarks as prepared)